

REMARKS

The office action of April 7, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-3 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Japanese patent 5-59446, Japanese patent 2000-94100 or Japanese patent 5-255816 in view of the patent to Tosaka or the patent to Berger.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, applicant submits that none of the references disclose or suggest a process or system for producing metal strip in which the rolling takes place after the strip has been heated and chemically treated, and the thickness of the strip is subjected to a reduction of 30-40% during rolling, as in the presently claimed invention. The references all teach greater amounts of reduction.

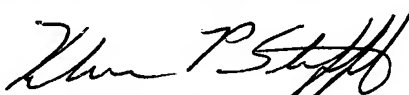
HM-613

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

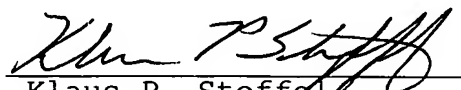
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 7, 2008.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: August 7, 2008